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Published to advance the Science of cold-blooded vertebrates

LUCANIA PARVA IN THE AQUARIUM

A case of spawning in the aquarium of *Lucania parva* has just come to the writer's attention and seems worthy of record.

This fish at times becomes very abundant among water weed in a fresh or very slightly brackish tributary of Moriches Bay at Mastic, Long Island. A number were captured here in September, 1914, since which date the writer has kept the species in balanced fresh-water aquaria continuously. From time to time the original stock has been added to by later collections or depleted by turning over fishes to other persons interested in keeping aquaria, so he can not say how long any one individual has lived in his tanks. There has been in general little mortality among them except wild fish immediately after having been placed in the tanks. They have been fed on dried food suitable for Poeciliid fishes. In the aquarium they usually do not show the dark cross marking characteristic of the fish when taken from its native haunt, but this marking has been assumed by fishes kept for several days in a tank where they swam among a thick growth of linear waterplant. One or two specimens have appeared in the writer's aquaria apparently smaller than any placed therein, from which he surmises that they must have done some spawning. Certainly no considerable number of young have been raised.

Lucania seems well adapted for the narrow confines of an aquarium on account of its small size. When several are placed in a tank they at first swim about in a more or less compact school, but when they become accustomed to their surroundings, scatter about the tank. They are moderately active and swim and take their food indifferently at the surface, at the bottom or in mid water. They have more poise than *Fundulus diaphanus* or *heteroclitus*, are less inclined to sluggishness or excitability. They show good spirit, frequently chasing one another, but are not bad fighters.

In February, 1916, Mr. J. Taubles of New York succeeded in getting spawn from four *Lucania parva*, recently obtained from the writer. On March 15, I visited his establishment and was shown several healthy-looking fry about $\frac{1}{4}$ in. in total length including caudal. They resembled the adults but were proportionately more slender with larger caudal fins. These he estimated to be three weeks old.

The fish had spawned and earlier fry hatched in a 14 x 9 x 9 inch tank placed in a window with water temperature fairly uniform at perhaps 64 degrees, and depth of water about 6 in. The tank had a good growth of water plants, much fine vegetation, plentiful algae. Although precise records had not been kept, I obtained the following opinion from those who had kept and cared for the fish. Younger fry than those referred to above hatched March 9 from spawn deposited on February 24, a period of just two weeks.

J. T. NICHOLS,
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FISH RECORDS FROM ORIENT, LONG ISLAND.

The following records refer to fishes taken near Orient, Long Island, New York. All the specimens referred to were collected by the writer and with the